

**Mr. Lauer.** Mrs. Bush, President Bush, thanks so much for your time this morning.

**President Bush.** Thanks, Matt, appreciate it.

**The First Lady.** Thanks, Matt.

**Mr. Lauer.** Grab your hammers, and go back to work. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The interview was taped at 6:07 a.m. at the Habitat for Humanity site for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

### Remarks to Reporters in Pass Christian, Mississippi

*October 11, 2005*

Listen, first I want to thank the superintendent for inviting us here. The schools of Pass Christian are blue ribbon schools. And they have been blue ribbon schools before, and they'll be blue ribbon schools in the future. Part of the health of a community is to have a school system that's vibrant and alive. And in spite of the fact that a lot of equipment was damaged and homes destroyed and teachers without places to live and—this school district is strong, and it's coming back. And it's a sign that out of the rubble here on the gulf coast of Mississippi is a rebuilding, is a spirit of rebuilding.

And thank you all for having us. I want to thank the principals and teachers for understanding the quality of education—the quality of the education in a community helps define the nature of the community. And one of the things that's interesting is the high school principal told Laura and me that the—and Madam Secretary—that the high school was deemed to be a blue ribbon high school after Katrina hit. And yet a lot of the students don't know that yet. And so when the high school comes back next Monday, the first thing the principal is going to tell them is that the school that they go to, even though the building is different—the buildings are different—is a blue ribbon high school.

And the superintendent says, blue ribbon high school last year, this year, and next year.

And I appreciate your spirit. Thanks for letting us come by.

Thank you all. Bye-bye. Good to meet you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. at DeLisle Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to Sue Matheson, superintendent, Pass Christian School District; Cathy Broadway, principal, Pass Christian High School; and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

### Remarks at the Joint Reserve Base at the U.S. Naval Air Station in New Orleans, Louisiana

*October 11, 2005*

Generals, thanks—General Landreneau and General Downer, thank you all for greeting me here. I'm proud to be traveling with Members of the United States Congress who are with us today. Listen, I'm here to thank you all for what has been an incredible outpouring of talent and skill and compassion to help the good folks of this part of the world that have suffered mightily. I'm incredibly proud of those who wear our Nation's uniform, and I'm incredibly proud of the job you have done. You have brought great credit to your units, credit to your family, and credit to our Nation.

We've got a lot of work to do, and I'll be telling the people that I've had an honor to meet, opportunity to meet, that out of this rubble is going to come some good, out of the devastation is going to come new cities and new hope. And I hope you take great inspiration in being a part of the renewal of this important part of the world.

I want you to, when you talk to your families, to tell them the Commander in Chief is proud of them as—I'm equally as proud of them as I am proud of you.

May God bless you all and your work. May God bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:29 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General for Louisiana; and Brig. Gen. Huntington B. Downer, Jr., Assistant Adjutant General for Louisiana.

## Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5766

October 11, 2005

*Seek the Lord while He may be found,  
call unto Him while He is near.*

*Isaiah 55:6*

Yom Kippur is the Sabbath of Sabbaths, the most solemn day of the Jewish calendar. On this day, Jews around the world reflect on their lives and give thanks to God for their many blessings. The Rabbis teach that on Yom Kippur, God holds open the gates of Heaven and listens to every word of every prayer. As those final prayers are shared and the Shofar is sounded, God remembers every name—those living and those departed. In this moment, we draw near to God, sharing in the wonders of all creation and the miracle of all life.

Yom Kippur teaches us that we merit forgiveness and mercy through repentance, prayer, and acts of charity. May we have the strength to achieve all these things, so that we continue to build a more hopeful Nation and a more peaceful and free world.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a blessed day.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

## Remarks Following Discussions With President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland and an Exchange With Reporters

October 12, 2005

**President Bush.** Thank you all for coming. I'll have a statement; Aleksander will have a statement. We'll be glad to answer two questions per side.

Welcome back. This is a happy moment, because I get to see my friend again. It's a sad moment, because he is leaving office. He has done an extraordinary job. We have built a strong personal relationship, but more importantly, we have a strong strategic relationship with Poland, thanks to your leadership.

Aleksander has helped advance the cause of peace by advancing the cause of freedom. He has served as a mentor for new democracies in the neighborhood. He has proven that you can be a friend to the United States and a loyal member of the EU at the same time. We have worked hard together to improve the lots of both our peoples.

And Mr. President, you can leave with your—your office with your head held high because of the fine job you have done. I am glad you came back, and it's an honor to be able to praise you to the people of your country for a job—a fine job.

**President Kwasniewski.** Thank you, sir.

**President Bush.** Hold on, we're going to a little—

**President Kwasniewski.** Yes. Thank you for—

**President Bush.** Do want to do an interpretation?

**President Kwasniewski.** Yes, I think interpretation is better.

**President Bush.** Especially after what I just said. [*Laughter*]

**President Kwasniewski.** I want to thank you very much, Mr. President. I want to thank you very much for those nice words. It is true that this visit is both a farewell visit and a visit that is a recapitulation of 10 years of my Presidency and 10 years of Polish-American relations between our two countries.

I started my Presidency in a different world, and now I'm leaving the office when the world is different and the world now is better, I believe. We are together in NATO. We are in NATO together with other Central and Eastern European countries. We are in NATO, together with the Baltic States, and we are also together in a group, in fact, family. Together we are building peace and stability in different parts of the world. We are fighting together against terrorism. We are fulfilling our task with joy and satisfaction, and we do it effectively. And together we are bringing more peace and more democracy to the world. We are also creating more values for the humanity. We are fighting for human rights and for the dignity of human beings.